

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
EASTERN DIVISION

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| MARVIN THOMPSON, |) | |
| |) | |
| Plaintiff, |) | |
| v. |) | CASE NO. 3:06-cv-160-WKW |
| |) | |
| STEVEN WOODS, <i>et al.</i> , |) | |
| |) | |
| Defendants. |) | |

ORDER

This cause is now before the Court on the plaintiff's Notice of Appeal (Doc. # 24) filed on July 7, 2006, and motion for leave to proceed on appeal *in forma pauperis* (Doc. # 26) filed on August 29, 2006.

Title 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) provides that "[a]n appeal may not be taken *in forma pauperis* if the trial court certifies in writing that it is not taken in good faith." In making this determination as to good faith, a court must use an objective standard, such as whether the appeal is "frivolous." *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 445 (1962). "The statute provides that a court 'may dismiss the case if the allegation of poverty is untrue, or if satisfied that the action is frivolous or malicious.'" *Attwood v. Singletary*, 105 F.3d 610, 613 (11th Cir. 1997) (citing 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d) (1996)).

This circuit has defined a frivolous appeal under section 1915(d) as being one "without arguable merit." *Harris v. Menendez*, 817 F.2d 737, 739 (11th Cir. 1987) (quoting *Watson v. Ault*, 525 F.2d 886, 892 (5th Cir. 1976)). "Arguable means capable of being convincingly argued." *Moreland v. Wharton*, 899 F.2d 1168, 1170 (11th Cir. 1990) (per curiam) (quoting *Menendez*, 817 F.2d at 740 n. 5); see *Clark*, 915 F.2d at 639 ("A lawsuit [under section 1915(d)] is frivolous if the 'plaintiff's realistic chances of ultimate success are slight.'" (quoting *Moreland*, 899 F.2d at 1170)).

Sun v. Forrester, 939 F.2d 924, 925 (11th Cir. 1991), *reh'g denied*, 503 U.S. 999 (1992). See also

Weeks v. Jones, 100 F.3d 124, 127 (11th Cir. 1996) (stating that “Factual allegations are frivolous for purpose of [28 U.S.C.] § 1915(d) when they are ‘clearly baseless;’ legal theories are frivolous when they are ‘indisputably meritless.’”) (citations omitted).

Applying the foregoing standard, this Court is of the opinion that the plaintiff’s appeal is without a legal or factual basis and, accordingly, is frivolous and not taken in good faith.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the plaintiff’s motion to proceed on appeal *in forma pauperis* (Doc. # 26) is DENIED and that the appeal in this cause is certified, pursuant to 28 U.S.C.A. § 1915(a), as not taken in good faith.

DONE this 27th day of September, 2006.

/s/ W. Keith Watkins
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE